

## How to improve your SAT score:

### Learn to read more effectively

- Use SOAPSTone
- Determine the Main Idea
- Look for repetition, parallel ideas, relationships between and among ideas, and motifs
- Determine inference or what is being implied
- Know the difference between a fact, an opinion, and an assumption
- Enhance your VOCABULARY!!!
- Review basic sentence structure (fragments and run-ons), grammar, mechanics, punctuation, capitalization and proper word usage (homonyms, and other commonly misused words) which are not directly tested, BUT may help students select the correct responses in the MC section and IMPROVE their writing score on the essay
- Pay attention to what the questions are asking; read questions carefully!
- Eliminate distractor answers and obviously incorrect responses; read response choices carefully!
- Always select the BEST answer; some answer choices MAY be partially true!
- Read one passage at a time to avoid confusion, don't jump around you will waste valuable time!
- Answer the easiest questions for a passage first, skip questions that are more difficult, then go back and see if you can answer the questions you initially skipped BEFORE going on to the next passage! Sometimes the information you get while working on the easier questions can help you with the more difficult ones.

### Improve your vocabulary

- Review word prefixes and suffixes
- Review root words
- Look for context clues
- Synonyms (Same meaning) and Antonyms (Opposites)
- Make flashcards from top 1,000 SAT word lists
- Learn 5 new words per day; Use your new words in everyday conversations
- Freerice.com (30 minutes per day or more!)
- Create a list of \*Sparkly verbs\* and \*Sparkly words\*

## Develop problem-solving skills

- There are MANY web sites and books with critical thinking activities and short warm up exercises (Daily Spark has 180 visual, perception, and logic questions)
- Practice SAT questions (online practice test, and tests in *The Official SAT Study Guide*)

## Strengthen writing abilities

THE ESSAY – Remember this is a timed original essay and a DRAFT VERSION, the SAT readers are not expecting perfection!

- Answer the question you are given, NOT the one you WISH they asked!
- Completely and thoroughly develop your ideas with relevant, interesting, and accurate supporting information
- Thesis statement must be CLEAR, DEBATABLE, and SPECIFIC (Recommend that it appears at the beginning rather than at the end of the essay. The SAT readers have a minute or less to read your essay, don't make them hunt for your thesis!)
- Organize your essay in a clear and logical manner (Recommend using a simple graphic organizer – Circle in a square – as a 1–2 minute pre-write)
- Include transitional words and phrases between paragraphs
- INDENT paragraphs, create a new paragraphs when you change ideas
- Include precise, appropriate, higher level vocabulary (sparkly words)
- Make a “go-to list” of words relating to the topic before you write to help you vary your vocabulary
- Vary your sentence structure; include at least two semicolons (used properly)

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS – In this section you will be looking for sentence errors, choosing the best version of a written piece, and improving paragraphs within a written text.

- Practice Tests for review and practice are online at The College Board SAT website
- Practice Tests in *The Official SAT Study Guide* (~\$20) at local bookstore